

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

The Abstract for the application appears on the front page of the PCT application. Applicant has rewritten the Abstract on to a separate page as is required for US practice. Further, Applicant has made amendments to the Abstract to bring it into compliance with the 150 word limit. A marked-up version of the Abstract is provided below, and a clean version is provided on page 10 of this Amendment.

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

The present invention relates to service and maintenance solutions for programmable and/or reconfigurable modules ( $CM_1, \dots, CM_n$ ), which are included in the nodes of a communications network (140). The module ( $CM_1$ ), ~~in turn,~~ contains a first digital storage unit ( $M_1$ ), which holds information pertaining to the accomplishment of a primary function of the module ( ~~$CM_1$~~ ). A secondary function of the module ( ~~$CM_1$~~ ) involves control of the primary function. The module ( ~~$CM_1$~~ ) has an optical bi-directional interface ( $I_w$ ) towards the first digital storage unit ( ~~$M_1$~~ ). ~~Thereby data~~ Data in the first digital storage unit ( ~~$M_1$~~ ) may be read out ( $D_0$ ) ~~to the portable software carrier unit (130).~~ The contents of the first digital storage unit ( $M_1$ ) and may also be updated ( $D_i$ ) by ~~means of~~ the portable software carrier unit (~~130~~) via the optical bi-directional interface ( $I_w$ ). ~~data~~ Data read-out ( ~~$D_0$~~ ) as well as data updating ( ~~$D_i$~~ ) may be accomplished independently of the primary function. Preferably, an access module (A) controls the bi-directional interface ( $I_w$ ) in response to an authorization signal (SA) from an authorization unit (120, 121, 122, 123).